

## **Ephraim Gleanings**

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Gleanings on Ephraim from Hosea

Hosea 4:11, 17; 5:11; 6:4; 7:8-9, 11-12; 10:12; 11:3-4; 12:1

Ephraim needs to guard against addiction, particularly addictions to harlotry, wine and new wine.

The spirit of harlotry causes Ephraim to stray.

Idolatry for Ephraim is harlotry against God.

Ephraim has a propensity to join himself to idols.

As a consequence for willingly following the commands of Man rather than the commands of God, Ephraim is oppressed or troubled, and broken or crushed by judgement or his judges.

Ephraim's faithfulness is fleeting, like a morning cloud or early dew to the rising sun, it goes away. So Ephraim needs to work on his constancy.

Ephraim needs to be on guard against mixing himself with the peoples. Along with all of Israel, he is supposed to be holy to the Lord His God, separated from the peoples.

Ephraim acts senselessly by looking to Egypt (sin, bondage, enslavement) for help / relief, and going to Assyria (normalcy, performing out of fear [of Man], that which seeks to put all under a yoke of performance).

But wherever he wanders, God will capture him, bring him back, and punish him.

God is Ephraim's real Father.

God has healed Ephraim, although he is unaware of it.

**Sinful propensities and/or weaknesses of Ephraim:**

- Harlotry
- Idolatry
- Addiction (particularly to harlotry, wine and new wine)
- Short-lived faithfulness
- Mixing with unholy people groups (failure to avoid)
- Foolishness (looking to Egypt for help/relief and going to Assyria instead of relying on God)
- Chasing after and feeding on vain and empty things
- Increasing lies and desolation (destruction, emptiness)
- Making a covenant with Assyria

Gleaning on Ephraim from Jeremiah

Jeremiah 31:9

Ephraim is God's firstborn - place of honor, privilege and responsibility.

"...Ephraim *is* my firstborn."